

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05
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-----151446Z 090561 /50

P R 151323Z APR 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2083
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0193

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES
OF APRIL 13, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE APRIL 13 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV, POLISH REP DABROWA AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER. MILITARY ADVISORS ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. IN THE SESSION, EASTERN REPS DEFENDED THEMSELVES AGAINST WESTERN CHARGES THAT POSITIONS EARLIER TAKEN BY EASTERN REPS INDICATING EASTERN RECOGNITION OF LARGE NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY OF EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER WERE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN CLAIMS THAT THERE WAS EAST/WEST PARITY IN MILITARY MANPOWER IN
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THE REDUCTION AREA. THEY CLAIMED WESTERN REASONING ON THIS SUBJECT WAS BASED ON QUOTING EASTERN STATEMENTS OUT OF CONTEXT OR WERE PURE THEORIZING. THEY ASSERTED THAT WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT FORCES WERE WRONG BECAUSE THEY WERE BASED ON INCORRECT METHODS OF COUNTING THOSE FORCES. THEY SAID THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE DATA DISCUSSION IN THE NEXT ROUND, MENTIONING IN THIS CONTEXT THEIR PROPOSAL TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS. EASTERN

REPS ATTACKED THE WEST FOR FAILING TO MAKE ANY NEW MOVES TO REVISE AN OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE REDUCTION APPROACH AND PRESSED HARD FOR THEIR FREEZE PROPOSAL.

3. WESTERN REPS PRESENTED A REVIEW OF THE WESTERN POSITION ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES AS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS AN EXPRESSION OF EASTERN VIEWS ON THIS TOPIC WHICH THEY URGED TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT ROUND. THEY SUMMARIZED MAJOR INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE EARLIER EASTERN POSITIONS AND PRESENT EASTERN DATA. THEY REVIEWED THE DATA DISCUSSION TO DATE, STATING THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED THAT THE EAST HAD ACTUALLY USED THE SAME COUNTING RULES AS THE WEST OR APPLIES THEM THE SAME WAY. THEY PRESENTED THE WESTERN POSITION ON TABLING NATIONAL TOTALS, AND THE WESTERN POSITION ON A NO INCREASE COMMITMENT AND REJECTED THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL.

4. CANADIAN REP LED OFF WITH BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE WESTERN POSITION ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC WHICH EASTERN REPS HAD SAID DURING THE APRIL 4 SESSION THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER ON. HE SAID WESTERN REPS LOOKED FORWARD TO HEARING EASTERN VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE NEXT ROUND.

5. CZECHOSLOVAK REP SAID THAT EAST/WEST AGREEMENT ON DATA WOULD PERMIT PARTICIPANTS TO AGREE ON THE AMOUNT OF MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER HOWEVER HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN ORDER TO SUBSTANTIATE THE WESTERN THEORY OF THE EXISTENCE OF DISPARITIES AND THE WESTERN REDUCTION POSITION. IN EFFORT TO MEET WESTERN CLAIMS OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PAST EASTERN POSITIONS AND PRESENT EASTERN DATA CLAIMS,

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CZECHOSLOVAK REP CLAIMED EAST HAD FROM THE OUTSET OF THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDED FROM THE IDEA THAT THERE WAS MANPOWER PARITY IN THE AREA IN ARTICULATING ITS REDUCTION POSITION. THUS, HE ASSERTED, EAST'S EARLY PROPOSALS FOR EQUAL NUMBER OF REDUCTIONS WOULD HAVE MEANT REDUCTION OF BOTH SIDES BY AN EQUAL PERCENTAGE, WHILE EASTERN PROPOSALS FOR EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN EQUAL NUMERICAL REDUCTIONS ON BOTH SIDES. CZECHOSLOVAK REP CLAIMED EAST HAD NOT CHALLENGED WESTERN DATA MORE VIGOROUSLY BECAUSE PREMATURE DATA DISCUSSION WOULD HAVE DIVERTED PARTICIPANTS FROM NECESSARY TASK OF PRESENTING THEIR POSITIONS ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF REDUCTION.

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FROM US REP MBFR

6. FRG REP SUMMARIZED WESTERN POSITION ON INCONSISTENCIES.
HE SAID THE FACT THAT PAST EAST POSITIONS SHOWING THAT EASTERN
REPS RECOGNIZED THAT THE EAST HAD A LARGE SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY
MANPOWER SUBSTANTIATED WESTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES HAD
STRENGTHENED WESTERN DOUBTS THAT THE EAST HAD INCLUDED ALL ACTIVE
DUTY WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ITS DATA. FRG REP CHALLENGED
CZECHOSLOVAK REPS CLAIMS THAT EAST HAD FROM OUTSET BASED ITS
REDUCTION APPROACH ON PARITY OF MILITARY MANPOWER. HE ANSWERED
EASTERN QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SESSION AS TO HOW WEST HAD
ALLOCATED CERTAIN FORCES BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

7. PRESENTING AS EVIDENCE TWO STATEMENTS BY FORMER SOVIET REP
KHLESTOV, TARASOV MADE A WEAK CASE FOR CLAIM THAT EASTERN REPS
HAD FROM THE OUTSET DISPUTED THE ACCURACY OF WESTERN FIGURES
ON WARSAW PACT FORCES. HE CHARGED THAT THE WEST HAD SUBMITTED
NO PROOF TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS CLAIMS OF DISPARITIES. THE WEST

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HAD FAILED TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL THE COUNTING RULES IT HAD USED
TO ESTIMATE WARSAW PACT FORCES, BUT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THESE
COUNTING RULES WERE FAULTY AND HAD RESULTED IN AN EXAGGERATED
COUNT. THE WEST SHOULD REVISE ITS FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT FORCES.
THE EAST WAS READY TO CONTINUE DATA DISCUSSION. TABLING NATIONAL
TOTALS WOULD HELP LOCATE THE SOURCES OF THE WESTERN COUNTING
MISTAKES. TARASOV PRESSED MERITS OF EASTERN FEB 1976 PROPOSAL

AS A COMPROMISE MOVE TOWARDS WESTERN POSITION.

8. US REP SUMMARIZED WESTERN VIEWS ON DATA DISCUSSION DURING THE PAST ROUND. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAD FAILED TO ESTABLISH THAT BOTH SIDES WERE IN FACT USING THE SAME DEFINITION OF MILITARY MANPOWER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COUNT OR THAT THEY HAD APPLIED THESE RULES IN THE SAME WAY. ALTHOUGH EASTERN REPS HAD INDICATED THAT THE EAST'S DEFINITION OF THE FORCES IT HAD COUNTED WAS IN PRACTICE EQUIVALENT TO THE WEST'S RULE OF COUNTING ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL, WESTERN REPS WERE NOT CONVINCED OF THIS AND WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE EAST HAD IN FACT INCLUDED ALL ACTIVE DUTY WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ITS FIGURES. AGREEMENT ON DATA WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE PURPOSES OF CALCULATING REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DATA DISCUSSION WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE UNTIL BOTH SIDES WERE SATISFIED THAT THE ACTUAL FACTS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. US REP URGED THAT EAST ACCEPT WESTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE US AND SOVIET TOTALS.

9. POLISH REP PRESENTED EAST'S GENERAL REVIEW OF THE PRESENT ROUND. HE SAID WEST HAD NOT USED THE FAVORABLE SITUATION PRESENTED BY THE ROUND TO ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATIONS, HAD PUT FORWARD NO NEW PROPOSALS, AND HAD CONTINUED TO DEFEND ITS OLD AND OBVIOUSLY UNACCEPTABLE POSITION, CALLING ON THE EAST TO REDUCE THREE TIMES MORE MANPOWER THAN THE WEST. THE WEST REFUSED TO REDUCE AIR FORCES OR ARMAMENTS IN GENERAL. THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE REFUSING TO UNDERTAKE EVEN A GENERAL STAGE I COMMITMENT REGARDING THEIR REDUCTIONS IN STAGE II AND WERE PRESSING FOR A COLLECTIVE CEILING WHICH WOULD PERMIT SOME WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO INCREASE THEIR FORCES

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AFTER A REDUCTION AGREEMENT HAD GONE INTO EFFECT. POLISH REP PRESSED EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. HE ANSWERED WESTERN QUESTIONS FROM APRIL 4 ON POLISH SEA LANDING DIVISION AND WHETHER THERE WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL OTHER THAN THAT OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE REDUCTION AREA, STATING THAT THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL OF WARSAW PACT SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA, BUT THAT THERE WAS A SMALL NUMBER OF THIRD COUNTRY SERVICEMEN UNDERGOING TRAINING. TARASOV WOUND UP SESSION BY PLUGGING EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL ONCE MORE. END SUMMARY.RESOR

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